DISCLOSURE TEXT:

Remote Subscription Services, or RSS, provides a mechanism for
a PenPoint operating system user to subscribe to applications that
are available on a server machine. The user's application list on
the mobile computer will be updated when a connection is made to the
appropriate application server. From this list the user will have
the ability to subscribe to applications. After the user subscribes
to a particular application, the application software is
automatically updated if a new version becomes available. The user
simply connects to the server and RSS will detect if the subscribed
application is backleveled and, if it is, will install the new
version without the need for user intervention.
-     The RSS client consists of a Pen-Based Computer running the
PenPoint Operating System and the client version of the RSS
application. The RSS server would contain the necessary structures
and data to allow the client to realize what applications are
currently available on the server and where these applications are
physically located. When the user connects to the server volume
these files are read and the list of available applications that the
user currently has on the tablet is compared against the list of apps
currently residing on the server. Any new application is then added
to the users list and any applications found on the users list that
are no longer available on the server are removed. When this step
has completed the user now has a current list of available
applications.
-     The fact that the user chooses to subscribe to particular
applications is maintained during this synchronization and unless a
new application has been added to the list the user does not need to
do anything further with the list. If a new application has become
available the user would then have the ability to subscribe to this
application also.
-     Once the list synchronization is completed the user can begin

the application synchronization. RSS will look at only those applications that the user has indicated subscription is desired. It will then compare the version number from the server file to the current application installed on the users tablet computer. If the version numbers do not match then the old version will be deinstalled from the tablet if necessary (as signified in the server file) and the latest version will be installed from the server location. If the version numbers match then the application on the tablet is current and no further action is needed for this application. This will continue until all subscribed applications have been checked and installed as necessary.

-    The concept of subscription services for a remote user of a PenPoint computer can be applied to more than Applications. Other possible uses are Data Subscriptions that allow for the ability to move data from or to the tablet as needed. The user could subscribe to data categories such as 'Company News' and the available data would be moved to their tablet. This would also be a way to retrieve data from the tablet, for instance survey data. If a user takes a survey on the tablet the output could be retrieved via RSS Data Services and stored on the server.

-    Also, this concept could be extended to system backups. The user could subscribe to Notebooks or sections of notebooks that they would like backed up when they connect to the RSS Server. This RSS Backup Service would allow for safe data storage and retrieval as needed.

-    Another future consideration for RSS is license tracking. License tracking has been difficult to do in the past, especially with mobile users. Extensions to RSS could track who has what applications installed on their tablet computer and what versions t hey currently have installed. This would allow for precise tracking when a company has a licensing agreement with a software vendor.